

a memory communicatively attached to the bus;  
 an input/output controller communicatively coupled to the bus; and

a disk drive having a disk with a non-user accessible area and a user accessible area, said disk drive attached to the input/output controller, said microcontroller capable of sending a first command over said bus via said input/output controller to change the amount of non user accessible area on the disk drive, wherein the disk drive is capable of executing a second command from said microprocessor to convert at least a portion of user accessible area on the disk to non-user accessible area on the disk and to input non-user accessible information to the converted non-user accessible area, wherein the disk drive is capable of executing a third command from said microprocessor to set an accessibility level.

31. The computer system of claim 30, wherein the accessibility level is an accessibility level within the non-user accessible area.

32. The computer system of claim 30, wherein the accessibility level is an accessibility level within the user accessible area.

33. A disk drive communicatively coupled to a host computer, said disk drive having a maximum addressable logical block address, and having a reserve area for storing information unavailable to software other than host BIOS code, said disk drive comprising:

an interface between the disk drive and a host computer;

a first apparatus recognizing a command sent over the interface by said host computer to reduce the maximum addressable logical block address to allow and increases in the size of the reserve area;

a second apparatus for increasing the amount of disk space devoted to a reserve area for storing information unavailable to the software other than host BIOS code of the host computer and for inputting non-software other than host BIOS code accessible information to the added reserve area; and

a third apparatus for checking some disk parameters to determine the amount of software other than host BIOS

code accessible area on the disk convertible to reserve area on the disk and vice versa,

wherein two or more levels of accessibility are established within either an unreserved area or within the added reserve area.

34. The disk drive of claim 33, wherein the first apparatus complies with the Advanced Technology Attachment (ATA) standard.

35. The disk drive of claim 33, wherein the first apparatus supports an Integrated Device Electronics (IDE) interface.

36. The disk drive of claim 33, wherein the first apparatus is a Small Computer System Interface (SCSI) device.

37. A computer system comprising:

a bus for passing commands and data to components communicatively attached to the bus;

a microcontroller communicatively attached to the bus;

a memory communicatively attached to the bus;

an input/output controller communicatively attached to the bus; and

a disk drive attached to the input/output controller, said microcontroller capable of sending commands over said bus via said input/output controller to change the amount of host BIOS code only accessible area on a disk drive, wherein the microcontroller is capable of sending a password to the disk drive, wherein the command to change the amount of host BIOS code only accessible area on a disk drive is executed when the password is correct and wherein host BIOS code only accessible information is added after the size of the host BIOS code only accessible area is changed.

38. The computer system of claim 37, wherein the microcontroller uses a System Management Mode to send the commands to the input/output controller.

39. The computer system of claim 37, wherein the microcontroller uses an expanded Advanced Technology Attachment (ATA) command set.

40. The computer system of claim 37, wherein a part of the area inaccessible to software other than the host BIOS code is made temporarily accessible to the software other than the host BIOS code.

\* \* \* \* \*